

REMARKS

The rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. 6,423,263 (Koizumi et al) is respectfully traversed. The broadest claim in the application now contains the limitations of Claim 2, not subject to this rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.


Applicants respectfully call the Examiner's attention to the Information Disclosure Statements (IDSs) filed November 19, 2003 and September 18, 2001. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the Forms PTO 1449 submitted therewith, and include a copy thereof with the next Office communication. For the Examiner's convenience, **submitted herewith** is a copy of these forms.

Moreover, since the date of the IDSs is before the date of the Office Action and thus technically were part of the Official file as of the Office Action date, Applicants respectfully request that should the Examiner determine that a new ground of rejection needs to be made in the next Office Action relying in whole or in part on any of the references cited in the IDSs, then said next Office Action not be made Final, even if the new rejection was necessitated by the present amendment to the claims.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowability of the subject matter of Claims 2-4. All of the present claims are drawn to the subject matter. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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